Noiseless Auction!

Coin Enthusiasts Bid And Buy Amid Deep Silence—Lot Of Money There.

An auction of rare coins sponsored by the American Numismatic Association convention was held last night in the parlors of the Hotel Netherland Plaza, but it could just as easily have been held in one of the reading rooms of the Public Library without so much as an assistant librarian stalking over to the bidders to frown them into silence.

There was a lot of money at the auction last night, but no noise. Everybody sat very orderly as the auctioneer whispered, "Item 482, one-fifty, two, two-fifty, two seventy-five, three, Olson." That meant that Mr. Olson had just recently come into the possession of a new coin for his collection. But the whole thing was difficult to figure out at first.

The auctioneer spoke slightly slower than the familiar tobacco man, which means that a lot of pecple bought a lot of coins in a very short time. Just how they bought them was the point of interest, however, because the buyers continued sitting in their chairs, marking with red pencils certain parts of their catalogues. No one shouted the usual "I bid," no one looked heatedly at a competitor unless he coughed too loudly, and the auctioneer went from one item to the next without pause.

But if you sat in long enough you would have found an occasional hand in the air—about shoulder high. Since there were no other signs of action, unless someone was winking at the auctioneer on the sly, you would decide that that was the way to buy coins. Maybe you're right.

It might be a dangerous way of spending your money, though. Just unfold your hands from across your chest and you find yourself spending $77 for a half cent piece minted in 1796, or $240 for an octagonal, uncirculated, Panama Pacific Exposition $50 gold piece, or $20 for a pattern nickel.

A long list of pattern coins was offered with the bidding brisk for this group. These coins are more or less "sample money," having been struck off at the mint as design samples to aid the Treasury De-